THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Vaidyanathan Committee

2361. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are going to implement the recommendations of Vaidyanathan Committee on water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c). The Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water was set up by the Planning Commission in October, 1991 under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. Vaidyanathan, former Member, Planning Commission to go into the various aspects of water pricing. The Committee submitted its report in September, 1992. The recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee were studied by a Group of Officers (GOO) set up by the Planning Commission in December, 1992 under the Chairmanship of Member Secretary, Planning Commission. The GOO in its report of December 1994 which broadly covers the totality of recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee suggested, inter-alia, recovery of annual operation and maintenance cost as basis of fixing irrigation water rates in phases; recovery of full costs from non-agricultural uses; modernisation and renovation of old irrigation systems; periodic revision of irrigation water rates; encouraging irrigation water management transfer to user farmers etc. The Planning Commission have accepted the report of the GOO. Irrigation being a State Subject, recommendations of the GOO alongwith the report of Vaidyanathan Committee have been sent to all the States for consideration and further action as deemed necessary.

National Sports Policy

2362. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any new National Sports Policy to promote and encourage the sports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any concrete steps have been taken by the Government so far to invite suggestions from the people for the formulation of new sports policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have also issued directions to the concerned authorities to identify the sports priorities to be given under the said new sports policy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.) :(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to reformulate the existing National Sports Policy with a view to making it more need based.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Suggestions have been invited from the various State/UT Governments, National Sports Federations and other concerned agencies.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. The roles of various concerned agencies, such as Central Government, State/UT Governments, National Sports Bodies, etc. have been spelt out for focussing their attention on the prioritised sports disciplines.

[Translation]

Science Centres

2363. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT BACNDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have established the Vigyan Mandirs (Science Centres) in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to establish any Vigyan Mandirs in the Uttaranchal region of Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). In terms of the extant policy of the National Council of Science Museums, the Science Centre could be set up provided the concerned State Government provides a developed site and agrees to share the cost of construction.

No specific proposal for setting up of any Science Centre in Uttar Pradesh other than the existing Regional Science Centre at Lucknow has been received.